

Springerville Town Council
Minutes
July 20, 2005

Present: Kay Dyson, Mayor, Mary Nedrow Vice- Mayor, Mark Baca, Scott Cray and Pete Hunt

Staff: Scott Garms Town Manager, Tim Shaffery and Eduardo Coronado Town Attorneys, Larisa Bogardus Community Development Dir. James Hamblin Finance Director, and Tom Malone Public Works Dir.

Public: Marnie Uhl, Tom Subirge, Carol Farnsworth, Kay and Phelps Wilkins, Kim Beneh, Bradley Angel, David Rohlader, Dorothy Rohlader, Scott and Sue Risser, Richard Spitzer, Bill Lucas, Suzanne Maddock, Kim Holaway, Dave Holaway, Brandee Snyder, Darcy Boyle, Andrea Cluff, Jon Cluff, Karen Glennon, Elizabeth Planteen, John Planteen, Rita Booth, Leighayn Green, Judy Hayes. White Mountain Independent.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dyson at 6:07 p.m.
2. Mayor Dyson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.
3. Public Participation:

Mayor Dyson presented Phelps and Kay Wilkins with a certificate for the Coss-Wilkins company for contributions to the Becker Park paver project; and Ann Breen with certificates for arranging for the Academy Drum and Bugle Corps to perform in the Round Valley Fourth of July Parade and for the band itself.

Phelps Wilkins expressed concern that the mature willows in the floodplain will die because irrigation diversions are depriving them of water. This would damage both the landscape and riparian habitat. He asked the town to work with Game and Fish and the water users association to address the problem. Mr. Wilkins also announced the yard and garden tour will be held July 30 and tickets are available now.

4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:
Chamber Report: Marnie Uhl said the chamber received a grant to develop a wildlife and birdwatching brochure and that she would help Mr. Wilkins get the willows watered as this could impact tourism. The chamber also received a grant to paint the museum building. A board retreat was held Tuesday (July 19) to plan for the 2005-06 year.
Scott Garms reported public works director Tom Malone had designed a gravity-flow chute to transport fill material to the Casa Malpais site for use in backfilling the rooms at risk of collapsing. Mayor Dyson noted that several volunteers were present and thanked them for their dedication to the project.
5. Minutes: Consider approval of the minutes from the town council work session held June 29, 2005 at 6:00pm

Pete Hunt/Mark Baca to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2005 meeting

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray
		Pete Hunt

- 6 Minutes: Consider approval of the minutes from the town council meeting held on July 6, 2005 at 6:00pm

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2005 council meeting.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt
-------	-------	--

7. ORDINANCE #2005-006: Discussion and first reading of ordinance #2005-006 amending Chapter 17.100 "Signs" of the Springerville Municipal Code and Section 405 "Signs" of the Springerville Zoning Code.
Planning and Zoning Commissioner Bill Lucas said this was a first effort to clean up the code and make allowances for uses that are not currently permitted.
Mayor Dyson asked if the sandwich board signs used by many businesses would be allowed to remain. Larisa Bogardus said the current code does not allow for them, but the new ordinance will.
Richard Spitzer asked if this would ban political signs in rights-of-way. Ms. Bogardus said they are already banned and would remain so under the new ordinance.
8. ORDINANCE #2005-007: Discussion and first reading of ordinance #2005-007 amending Chapter 17.96 "Nonconforming Uses and Structures" of the Springerville Municipal Code and Section 403 "Nonconforming Uses and Structures" of the Springerville Zoning Code.
Ms. Bogardus said this basically just resolves a contradiction within the code and makes it consistent.
9. GASIFICATION PLANT: Presentation by Bill Greenwood and discussion on the potential gasification plant to be constructed by Global Energy.
Mr. Garms said Mr. Greenwood would not be present. Vice Mayor Nedrow asked that Mr. Garms relay the entire message regarding Mr. Greenwood's presentation. Mayor Burk indicated Mr. Greenwood did not have the approval of Eagar's council to make the presentation, he was attending a Scout camp in Payson and the matter would be addressed at future Eagar Town Council meetings, which are open to the public.
Mayor Dyson said the discussion could still take place as the item was on the agenda. She explained that Global Energy is a California company that proposes to use solid waste to fuel a plasma gasification plant using technology that is patented or patent pending. The plant would be located on land near the transfer station owned by the Town of Eagar and would power an industrial park as well as produce synthetic gas, ethanol and other fuels. Literature indicates only 0.5 percent of the original waste material would remain, the process creates low or no emissions and can be used to dispose of industrial waste. The plant would be the cornerstone of a small diameter timber industrial park at the same site. A memorandum of understanding is being negotiated with the Town of Eagar, which is asking the county to bypass the conditional use permit process and zone the entire 120 acre site for industrial use.
Mayor Dyson said she had many questions which are not answered. As a result, the Springerville council invited Mr. Greenwood to make this presentation.
Kay Wilkins said she was not familiar with this technology, but conversations with an environmental engineer and chemical engineer had raised her concerns. Despite the company's claims, ash or some other byproduct will be generated and it will include hazardous material. It's more likely that 5 to 30 percent of the original waste will remain, including heavy metals. She questioned where and how water would be obtained and disposed of to supply the plant. She also suggested a bond or impact fee to be used to resolve any problems, expressing concern that the company could just pull out and leave an environmental mess behind. She also asked about stockpiles of waste material, emissions and monitoring, and separation and disposal of household hazardous waste.
Mayor Dyson said she got no answer when she asked how much trash would be needed to operate the plant, but doubted Southern Apache County could generate enough.
Jim Fuhman asked if an environmental impact survey had been done. Mayor Dyson said not to her knowledge.
Mrs. Breen said the project had already been rejected by Pima and Cochise counties.
John Planteen said his questions about stockpiling and importing trash were not answered during an Eagar Town Council meeting. He also expressed concern regarding the number of trucks, volume of

material, and the potential effects on infrastructure and wildlife. Although it is being promoted as a disposal method for scrap material from the manufacture small diameter wood products, the company has indicated that wood is useable, but not desirable.

Dennis Sassarini said he'd heard that the technology and these types of plants are not viable and that there is no data available regarding emissions or environmental impacts. He felt the proximity to the Little Colorado River was cause for concern.

Scott Risser, a chemical engineer who once worked for DOW Chemical in this field said it is a dirty technology, but can be clean if done properly. In that case, the solid waste imported would be more polluting than the process itself. The "syn gas" process has a lot of value and the chemistry is sound, but how it's developed, sealed and contained are major problems. The best method is vitrification, which seals the byproducts in glass. He suggested asking for an in-depth technical presentation. At least a two-week supply of material would have to be stockpiled, which would have potential for pollution, depending on the material. Mr. Risser said he was unaware of anyone producing "syn gas," which is the source of by-products, using plasma arc technology. Plasma incinerators exist and pose no risk because they are clean and burn the material completely, although he's never heard of anyone using municipal waste in a plasma incinerator.

Councilman Cray questioned whether the group is wasting time and getting hysterical about nothing.

Mr. Risser said he liked the idea of a bond, which is not uncommon for potential superfund sites.

Mrs. Wilkins suggested the towns and county hire an independent industrial engineering firm to assess the project.

Dave Rohlander pointed out that although Global Energy's website claims the company owns other facilities, it doesn't. He also questioned why this process was not being sold to urban areas with a greater need.

Mrs. Breen said she felt Eagar Town Council was not asking the right questions, but was simply jumping at the opportunity to bring jobs and money into town. If the site is zoned industrial, citizens will no longer have a say in what goes out there.

Mayor Dyson said it is difficult to serve on a council and address complex issues. At present, it is a county issue because of the zoning question. She encouraged the public to contact their elected officials and voice their concerns. Also, at some point, Blue Hills (Environmental) would have to get involved because it is the primary solid waste hauler in the region. If the towns and county, who are partners, decline to provide material for the plant, there might not be enough available to support it. Also, the company needs to be made accountable for what it's doing. They haven't even applied to ADEQ for a permit.

Bradley Angel, who works with communities threatened by pollution, said his agency has been tracking Global Energy for two years, during their efforts to site a facility in Bisbee and Sierra Vista. When asked about their other facilities, they admitted they had none. He doesn't feel a bond would adequately cover the potential health impacts, financial liability and environmental impacts. He also noted that the technical plan varies from document to document. At one point, the company asked Cochise County to commit to provide 100,000 tons of solid waste, but did not indicate what would happen if that wasn't done. The company has also talked about using tires, sewer sludge and medical waste in addition to solid waste or as an alternative to it. Only two facilities exist in the U.S. One in Hawaii uses medical waste and was down for eight months at one point. Allied Technology closed its facility in Washington state and filed for bankruptcy. This would be the first community solid waste plasma arc facility in the country. A thermal facility in Germany is also being shut down. A plasma facility in Japan generates toxic chemicals in its byproducts as well as dangerous emissions. The model facilities in California use agricultural waste exclusively, so they are not an accurate comparison.

Dave Holaway said he and his wife attended two Eagar Town Council meetings and these questions and comments were not raised. He encouraged the public to take these concerns to the board of supervisors.

Kim Beneh suggested the county reject the industrial zoning request and use the conditional use permit process to regulate the facility, including requiring a comprehensive plan for the facility.

Jonathan Frenzen questioned how materials would be transported to the plant, would existing roadways be able to support this increase in transportation, is the county able to respond to a hazmat incident and who would be responsible for upgrading emergency services to respond to this type of incident.

Mr. Spitzer asked what type of jobs would be created, because menial, low-paying jobs are not attractive. He also felt this type of industry is what is wanted in the White Mountains.

Leighayn Green said she got the impression the board of supervisors were not well informed about this issue either, but at least one board member is reluctant to tell Eagar how it can use its land. She encouraged the public to write letters to the editor and the board.

Mrs. Breen said dioxins in emissions can get into air, water and food, including milk and meat. This means wildlife and the river could be impacted as well as people.

Mayor Dyson said 10 (ten) states are now importing trash to rural areas because urban areas have no place to dispose of it. Years ago, Apache County was considered for a nuclear waste dump. This is an opportunity for the communities to decide what they want to become. Recently, the municipalities voted to support a national heritage area designation that would bring in \$10 million over 15 years. She encouraged citizens to read about this, write letters and talk to elected officials in Eagar and the county.

Councilman Cray left the meeting prior to conclusion of this topic.

10. ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS CONTRACT: Discussion and action regarding a contract addendum for the master plan.

James Hamblin said this simply changes the language to call for an airport master plan rather than an airport layout.

Pete Hunt/Mark Baca motion to approve the addendum.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Mary Nedrow

12. Adjournment:

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Pete Hunt

Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday, July 20, 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st of July, 2005

Larisa Bogardus, Community Development Director